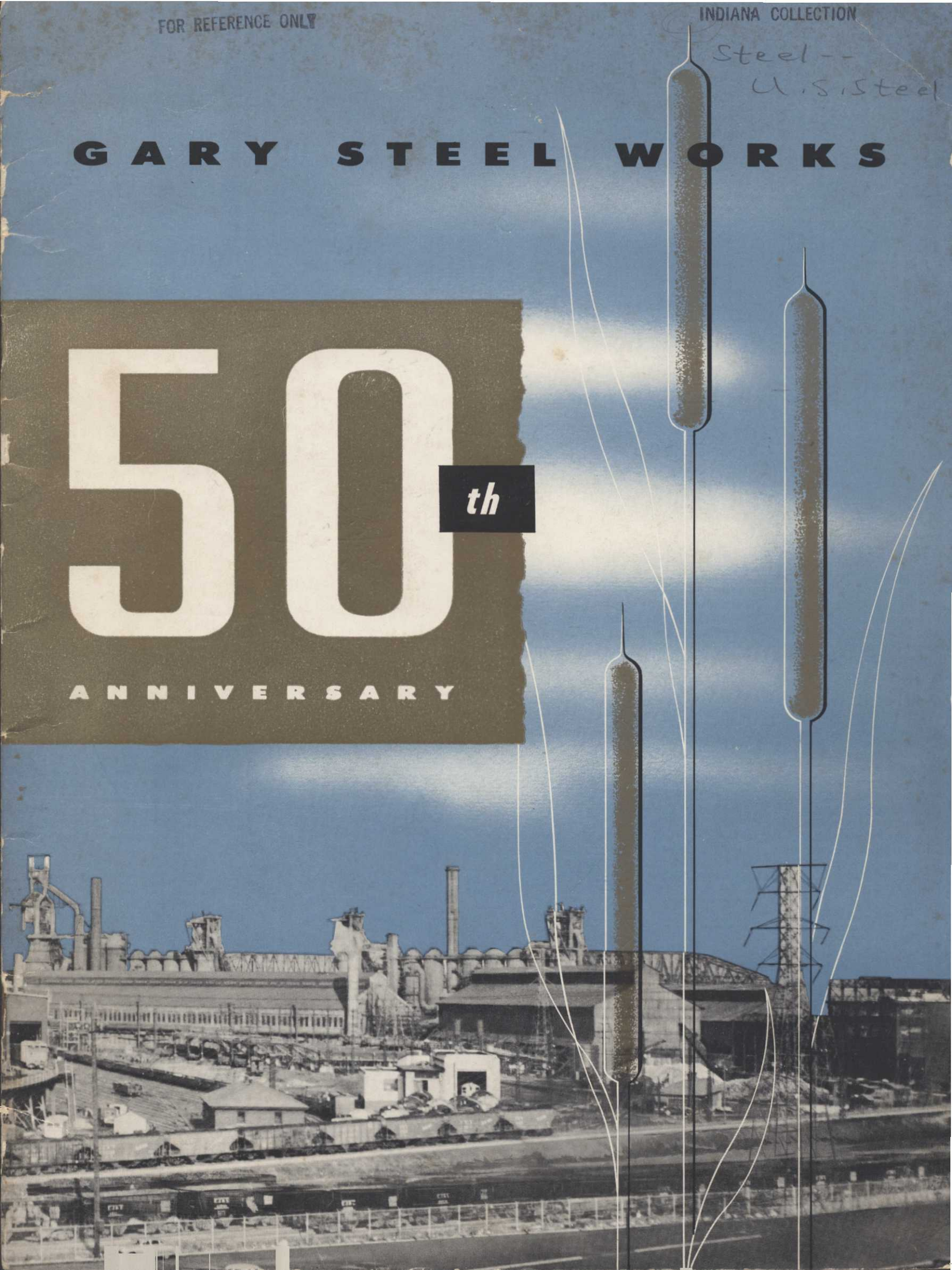
FOR REFERENCE ONLY

INDIANA COLLECTION

Steel --
U.S. Steel

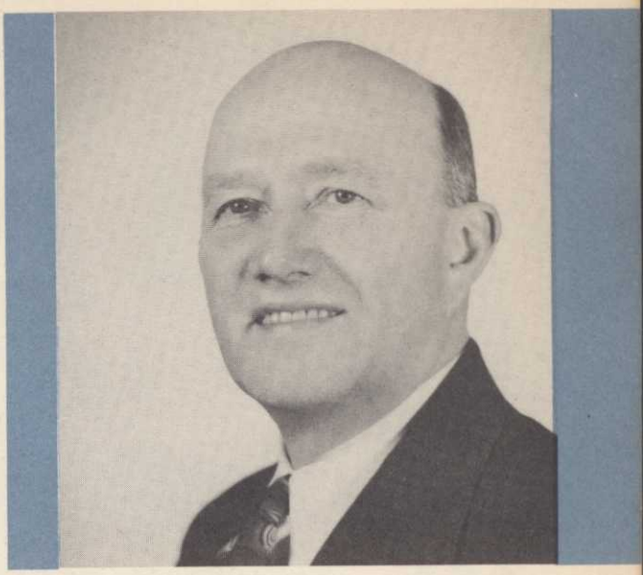
GARY STEEL WORKS

50th ANNIVERSARY



Salute

TO GARY STEEL WORKS



It is with great pride that I extend congratulations to the men and women of Gary Steel Works on the Fiftieth Anniversary of U. S. Steel's largest and certainly, one of its finest steel-producing units.

Gary Steel Works holds a unique position in the steel industry. When the United States Steel Corporation decided to build steel-producing facilities on the barren dunes of northern Indiana, it did so with the knowledge that construction would begin on the mills even before the formation of a community near the site.

Thus, Gary Steel Works became from the very beginning actively concerned with the growth and progress of the City of Gary.

It is only fitting, therefore, that this steel plant and the City should celebrate their fiftieth birthdays together. For, each is dependent upon the other and both are working together for the benefit of all.

The continuing growth and development of this great steel plant means the continuing growth and prosperity of the City of Gary and of the nation.

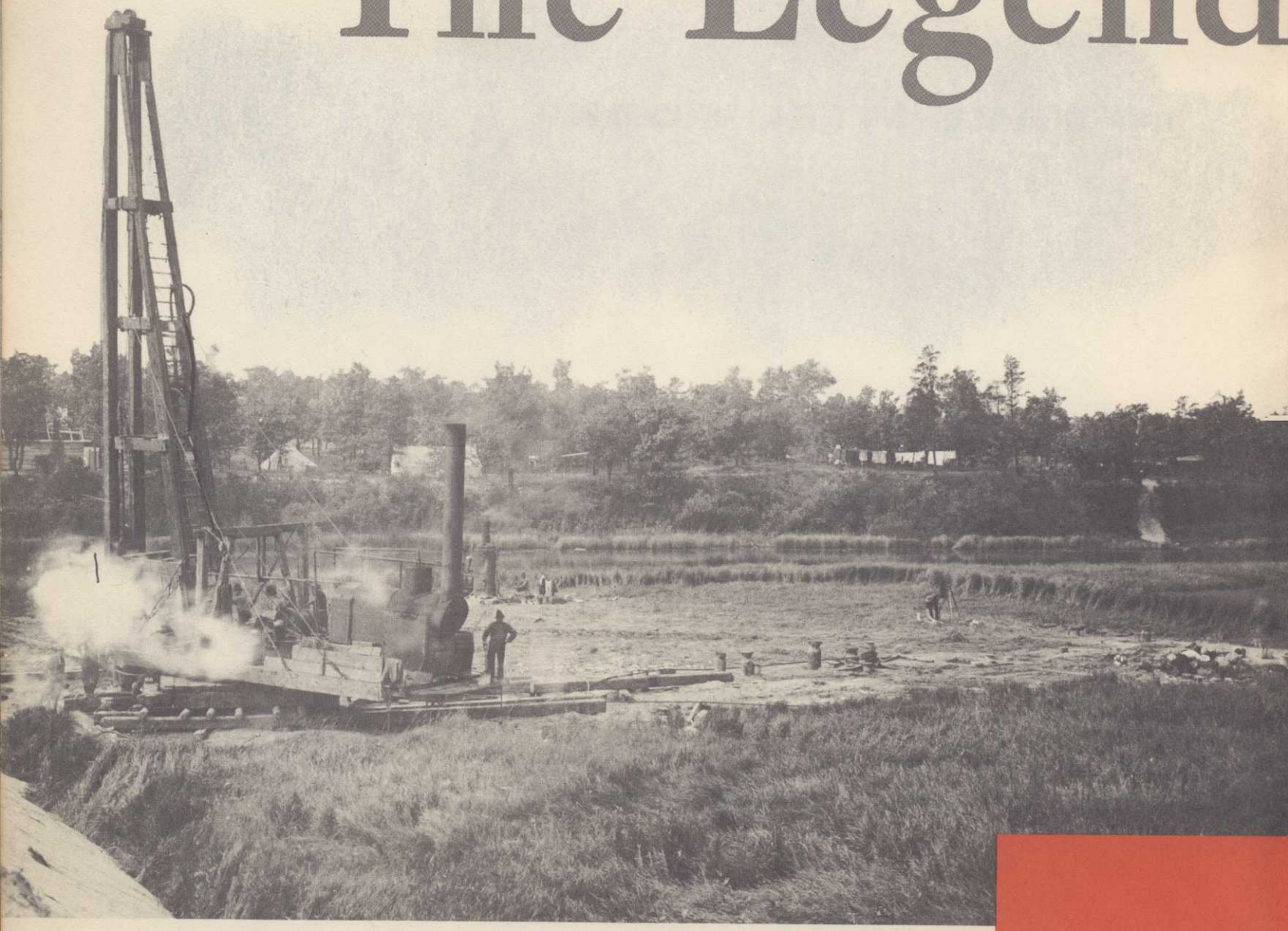
With this fine cooperative spirit, the people of Gary and Gary Steel Works can see only a future with unlimited horizons.

C. F. Hood

CLIFFORD F. HOOD
President, United States Steel Corporation

◀ Judge Elbert H. Gary, first chairman of the board, United States Steel Corporation.

The Legend



1906

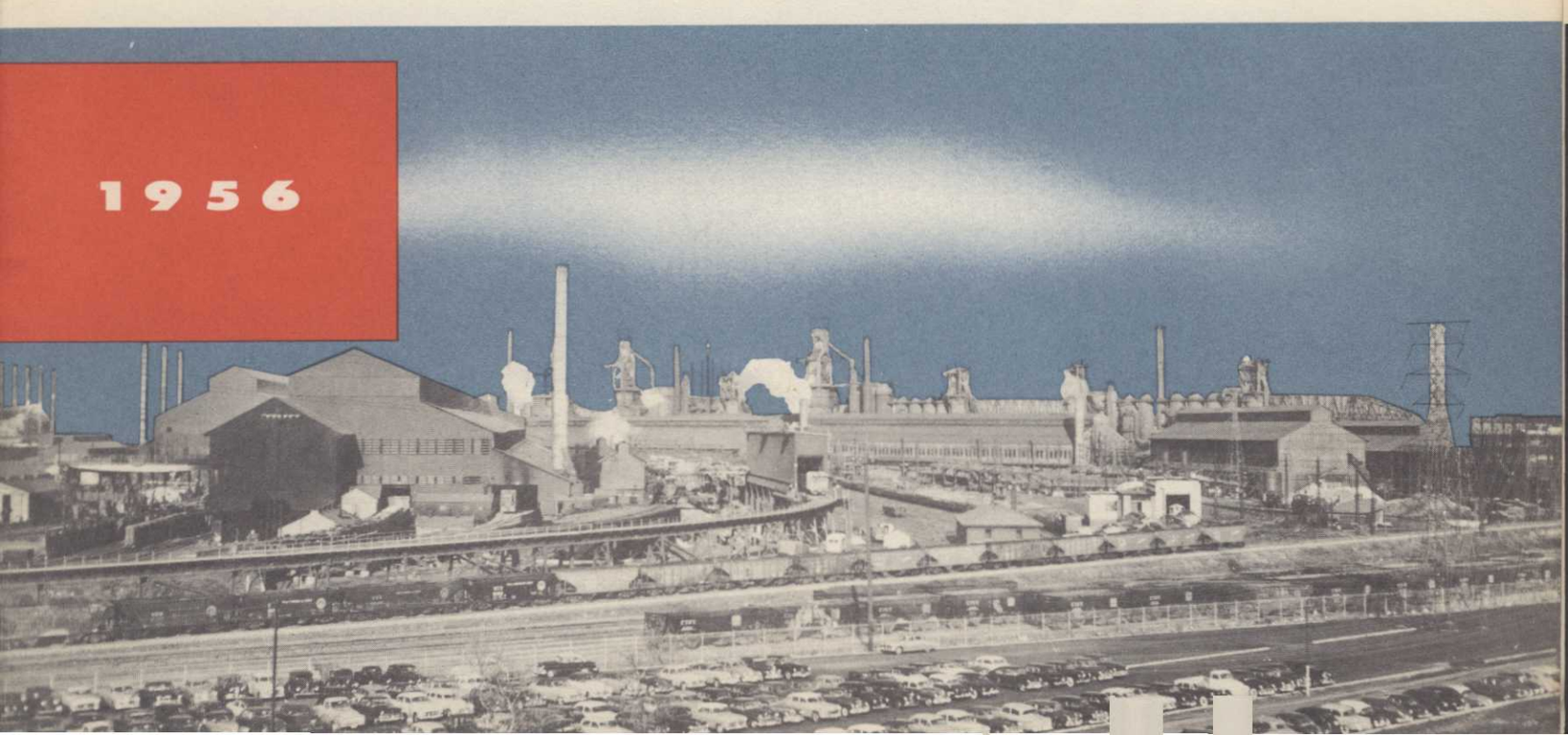
# of Steel

Steelmen have a legend about a figure called Joe Magarac . . . the Paul Bunyon of the steel industry. He was conceived in a mountain of iron and grew to manhood with muscles and ribs of steel. He could stir a heat of molten steel with his bare hands, twist a steel beam into a pretzel, grab a hot ingot and squeeze out a railroad rail without effort. To complete the legend, Joe Magarac melted himself down into the finest, most durable heat of steel ever produced, thereby giving his strength to the bridges, buildings and railroads of the nation.

But, even to Joe Magarac, GARY STEEL WORKS would be a "big" mill. It is today "the world's largest integrated steel mill." In fifty years of operations Gary Steel Works has poured 171 MILLION TONS OF STEEL, helping to brace the backbone of our American economy.

A little more than fifty years ago, persons passing along the land on which Gary Steel Works and the City of Gary now stand, would have seen only stunted oaks and whirling tumbleweed among the swirling sands of the barren dunes. Early surveyors described this site as "barren — uninhabitable — good for nothing."

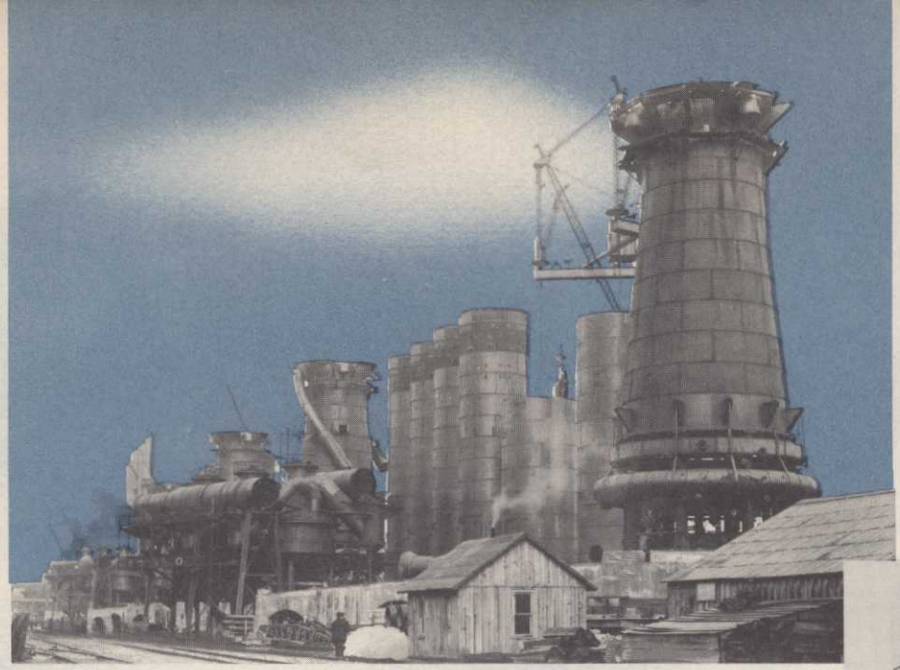
1956



The transition from nothing to the world's largest producer of steel began with an announcement by Judge Elbert H. Gary, first chairman of the board of the United States Steel Corporation. The Corporation's 1905 Annual Report stated, "It has been decided to construct and put into operation a new plant to be located on the south shore of Lake Michigan, in Calumet Township, Lake County, Indiana. . ."

To make his dream of an integrated steel mill a reality, Judge Gary authorized the purchase of 1,500 acres, the site of the present mills and the City of Gary.

On March 12, 1906, the spirit of Joe Magarac descended upon the lonely dunes with the arrival of a group of civil engineers who drove the first stakes and marked the lines of the proposed steel plant. No sooner had the lines been laid than steam shovels and teams of horses began to excavate and prepare the ground for the erection of the foundations.

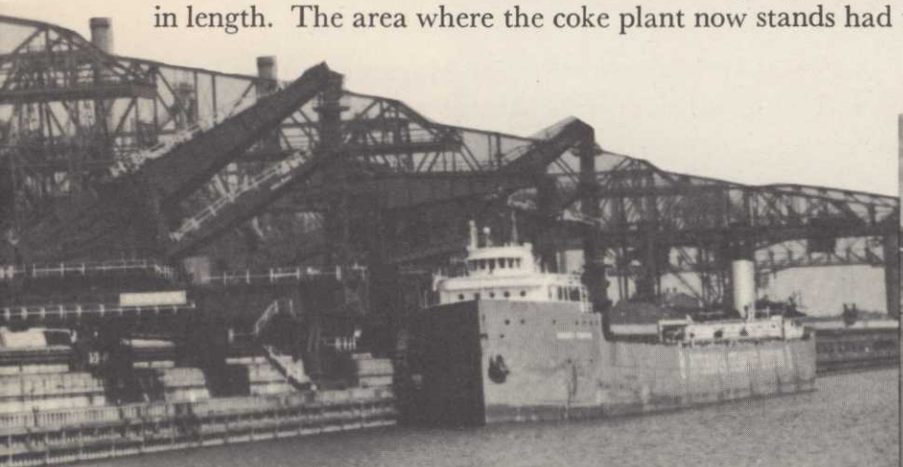


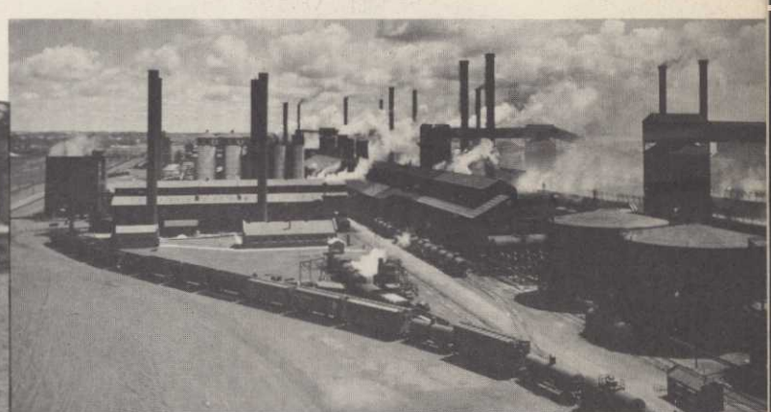
The Corporation selected an experienced, hard-driving steelman named William P. Gleason, to undertake the tremendous task of erecting and operating Gary Steel Works. Gleason took charge of the construction on June 1, 1906.

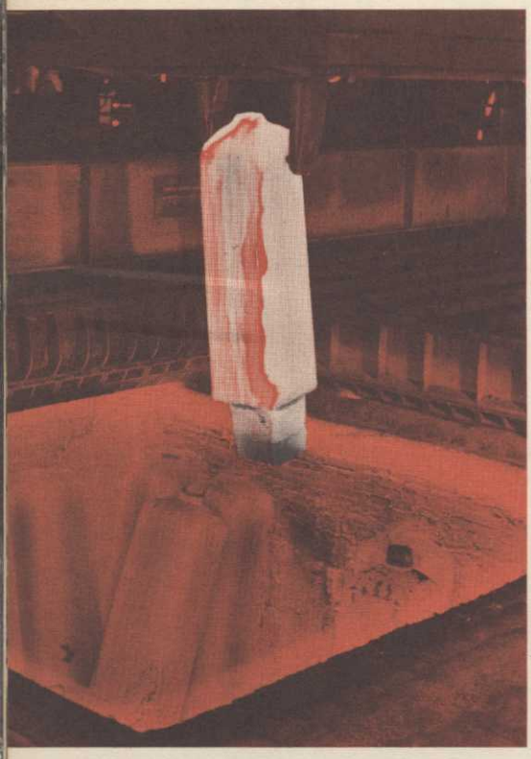
The work progressed rapidly, and soon a harbor was constructed measuring a mile in length and 250 feet in width, with a turning basin of 750 feet in diameter. Today Gary Steel Works is still one of the few plants in the world which has a turning basin where ore boats can turn around and get underway without the use of tugboats.

Steel skeletons of giant blast furnaces and the outlines of the open hearth buildings began to rise from the sand.

The flow of the Grand Calumet river was reversed and the water diverted into a man-made channel measuring approximately two miles in length. The area where the coke plant now stands had to be drained.







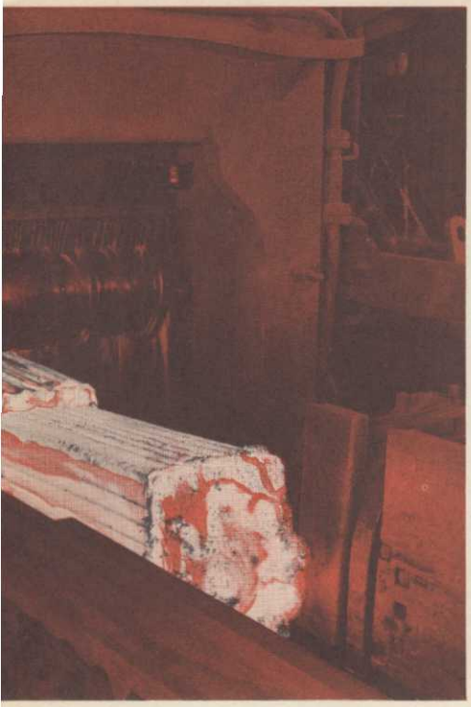
The routes of the Baltimore & Ohio and Lake Shore railroads were relocated, requiring an additional 51 miles of railroad track.

This tremendous undertaking made the Joe Magarac myth pale by comparison. Over 12 million cubic yards of sand were removed and 4 million cubic yards were required for back fill. More than 2 million yards of concrete had to be poured for the foundations of buildings, machinery and furnaces. The tonnage of earth moved during this construction was comparable to the amount of earth moved in the Panama Canal project.

On July 23, 1908, the Steamer Elbert H. Gary entered the new Gary Works harbor under a 21-gun naval salute, carrying the first cargo of iron ore from the Mesabi range in Minnesota. A few weeks later, the first of 12 blast furnaces was blown in and the first pig iron was produced.

Two momentous events occurred in February, 1909: The open hearth furnaces tapped the first heat of steel and the new rail mill turned out the first finished product.

In August 1909, the billet mill started operations, followed in December by the 18″ merchant mill.



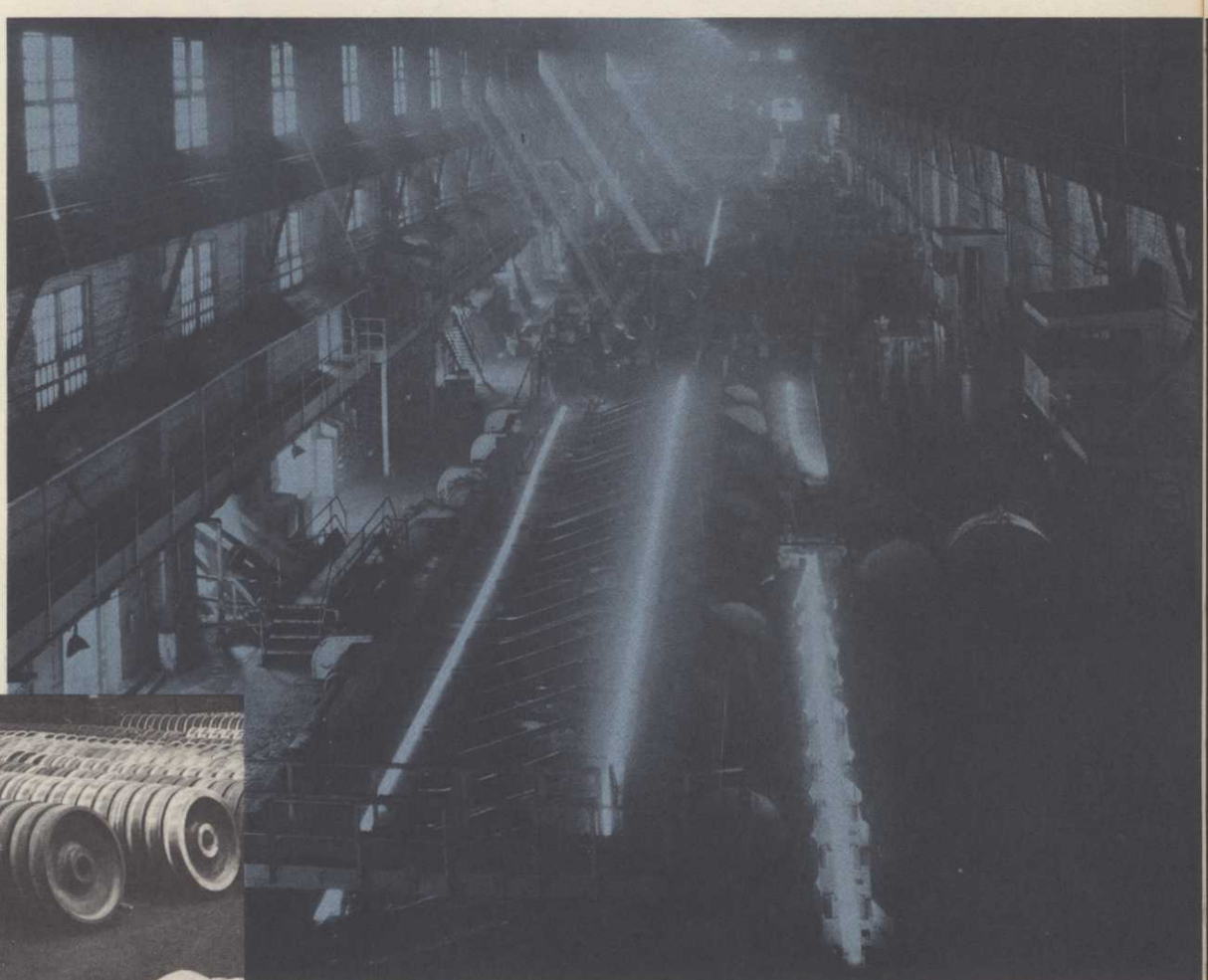
The following two years saw operations begun at the former 60″ plate mill and three merchant mills.

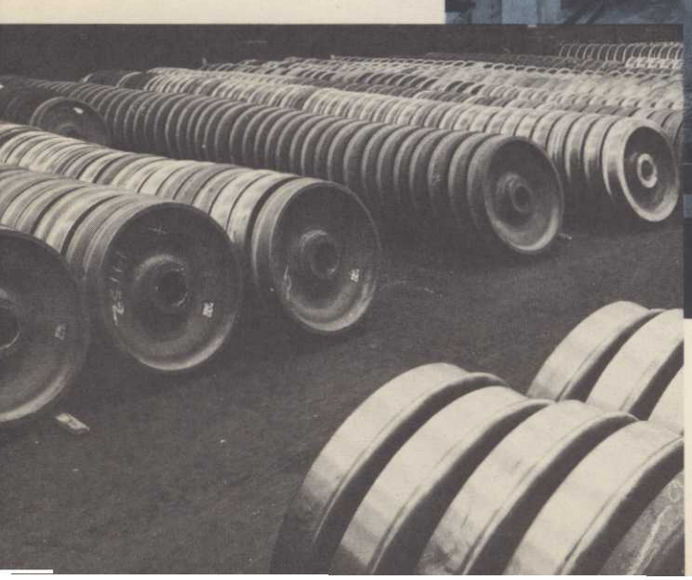
An axle mill was added in 1910. The first railroad car wheels were forged in December 1918. A 36″ slabbing mill was erected in June 1914; the 160″ plate mill in October 1917; the 40″ blooming mill in March 1918; and the 44″ blooming mill in May 1931.

The open hearth shops expanded from two in 1909 to five by November of 1930. Each shop is large enough to hold a couple of football fields.

The sinter plant, which began operations in 1928, was supplemented by the construction of another plant in 1950.

During World War II, Gary Steel Works operated the 84″ Gary Armor Plate Plant, which produced tank armor plate. Constructed in April 1942, the first plate was rolled on October 16 of that year. The Armor Plate Plant discontinued operations on May 31, 1945, after a total of 252,000 tons of steel had been rolled.





"Partners For The Future"

"A STEEL MILL....A STEEL CITY"

The history and destiny of the City of Gary are inextricably linked to the history and future of Gary Steel Works.

Stakes were driven, platting the site of the City of Gary on April 18, 1906, one month after the lines were marked for the steel mills. The United States Steel Corporation assumed the responsibility of building the town and supervising, for a short time, its government.

On July 17, 1906, the city was incorporated. The Gary Land Company was organized by the Corporation for the purpose of selling the land, without profit, for residential and business purposes. Because of the zoning restrictions, which were an integral part of each deed, the Corporation was able to provide an attractive, desirable and suitable place for its employees.

Through grants of land from the steel Corporation, Gary was provided with one of the finest park and school systems in the world.

From 334 persons in 1906, the City of Gary has grown to become the second largest city in the State of Indiana, with a population of nearly 160,000 people.

Men Of Steel

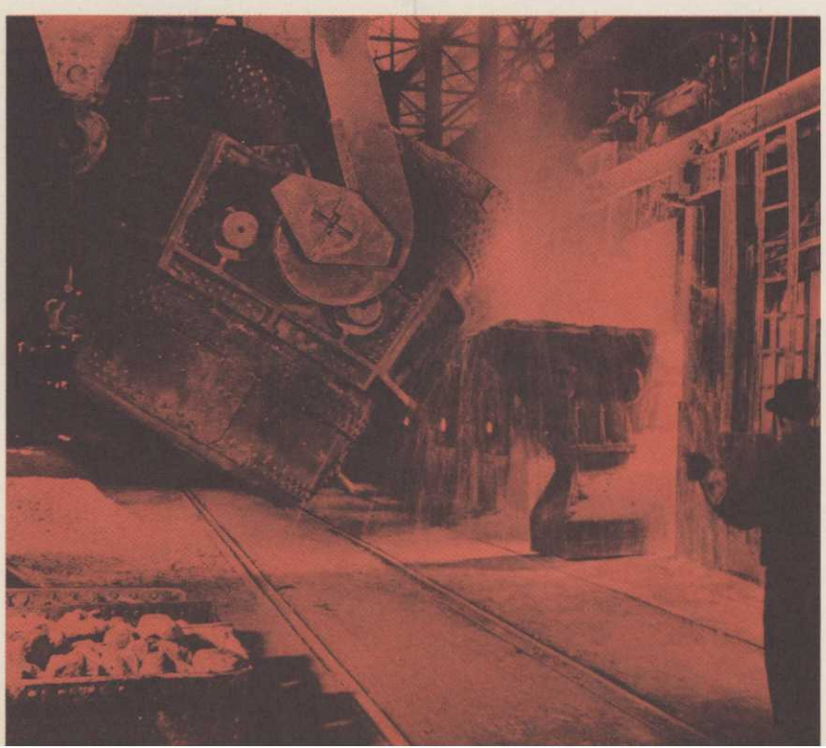
What of the people who have made Gary Steel Works the greatest producer of steel in the world today?

Who are these modern-day Joe Magaracs?

The employees of Gary Steel Works represent many nationalities, many creeds and races. They have shown the peoples of the world what can be accomplished under a democratic individual enterprise system when each works toward a common goal — to make the finest quality steel for the benefit of all.

Gary Steel Works is proud that over one-quarter of the more than 20,000 persons working in the plant have been employed for 25 years or more.

It has successive generations of families who work side by side — proud that they are known as "the steelmakers."

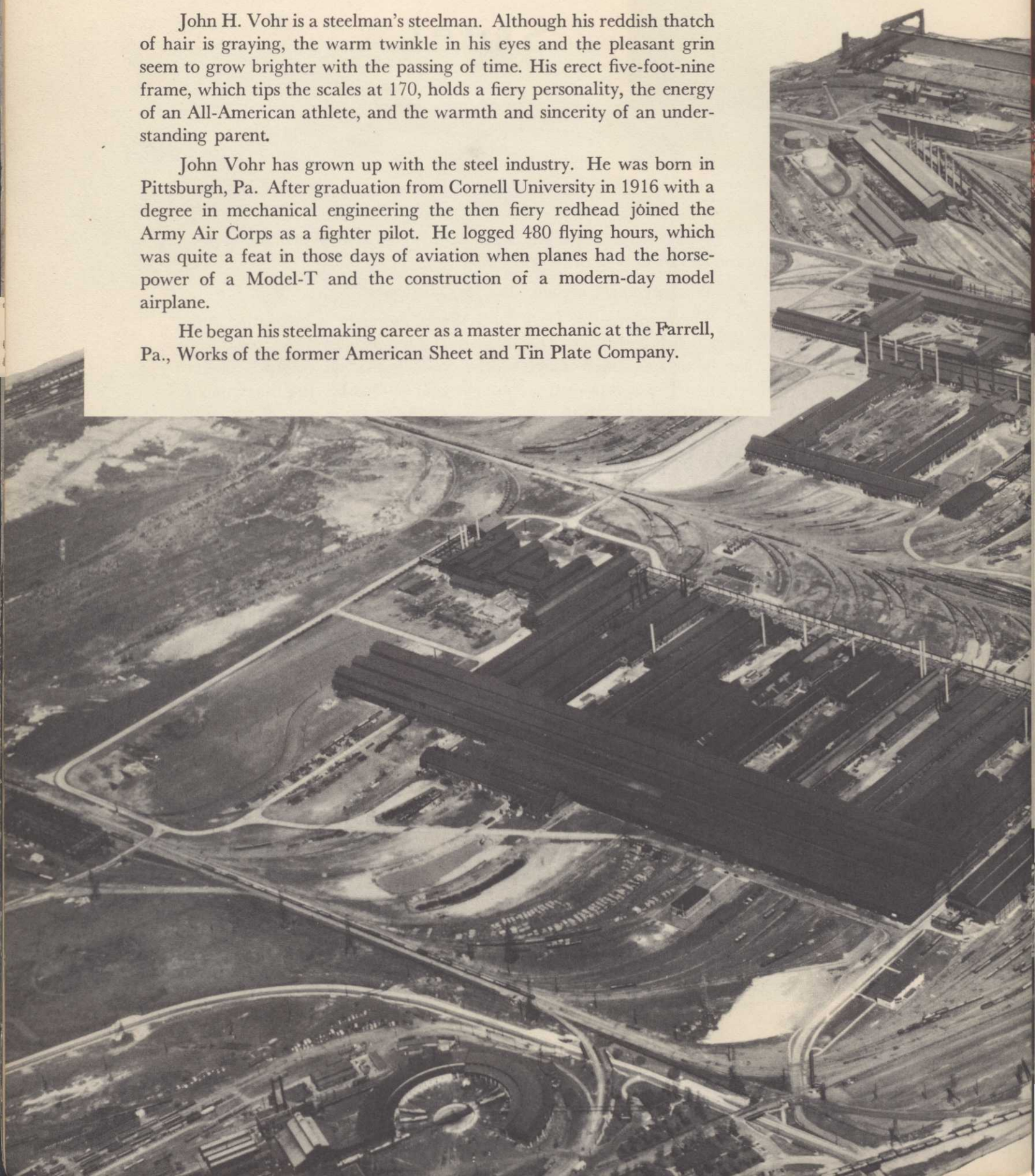


Meet "The Boss"

John H. Vohr is a steelman's steelman. Although his reddish thatch of hair is graying, the warm twinkle in his eyes and the pleasant grin seem to grow brighter with the passing of time. His erect five-foot-nine frame, which tips the scales at 170, holds a fiery personality, the energy of an All-American athlete, and the warmth and sincerity of an understanding parent.

John Vohr has grown up with the steel industry. He was born in Pittsburgh, Pa. After graduation from Cornell University in 1916 with a degree in mechanical engineering the then fiery redhead joined the Army Air Corps as a fighter pilot. He logged 480 flying hours, which was quite a feat in those days of aviation when planes had the horsepower of a Model-T and the construction of a modern-day model airplane.

He began his steelmaking career as a master mechanic at the Farrell, Pa., Works of the former American Sheet and Tin Plate Company.



JOHN H. VOHR
General Superintendent

Former General Superintendents Of Gary Steel Works

W. P. GLEASON
1906-1935

WALTER E. HADLEY
1935-1938

E. EARL MOORE
1938-1940

STEPHEN N. JENKS
1940-1949

"Meet The Boss"
continued

In 1929, he arrived in Gary as assistant superintendent of the newly-built 42" hot strip mill at the neighboring Gary Sheet and Tin Mill. Later, he was named superintendent of the first cold rolling mill installed at the Gary Sheet and Tin Mill.

During 1932 to 1942, John Vohr directed strip mill operations for Inland, Youngstown and Granite City, and was considered by steelmen to be without peer in the entire United States as an expert on hot and cold strip rolling.

He joined the United States Steel Corporation's Pittsburgh engineering staff in 1942, and less than a year later became assistant to the general superintendent of the Corporation's South Chicago Works. He was promoted to assistant general superintendent in 1945.

At the age of 56, the steelmaker took over the job of general superintendent of Gary Steel Works.

John Vohr is proud of his plant, his organization and of the City of Gary. He is constantly striving by civic leadership to make Gary, as he says, "the best place in which to rear our children."

When asked about Gary Steel Works, he will invariably finish his statement by remarking, "The most important fact about Gary Steel Works is not that it is the largest in the World — but that it is the best in the world."

1956

Gary Steel Works.....

The steel plant covers over 2700 acres in well-planned segments along 5 miles of the lake edge and 1½ miles inland.

The transportation system consists of 65 miles of paved roads and 250 miles of railroad tracks.

The flow of production runs from east to west in continuous progression.

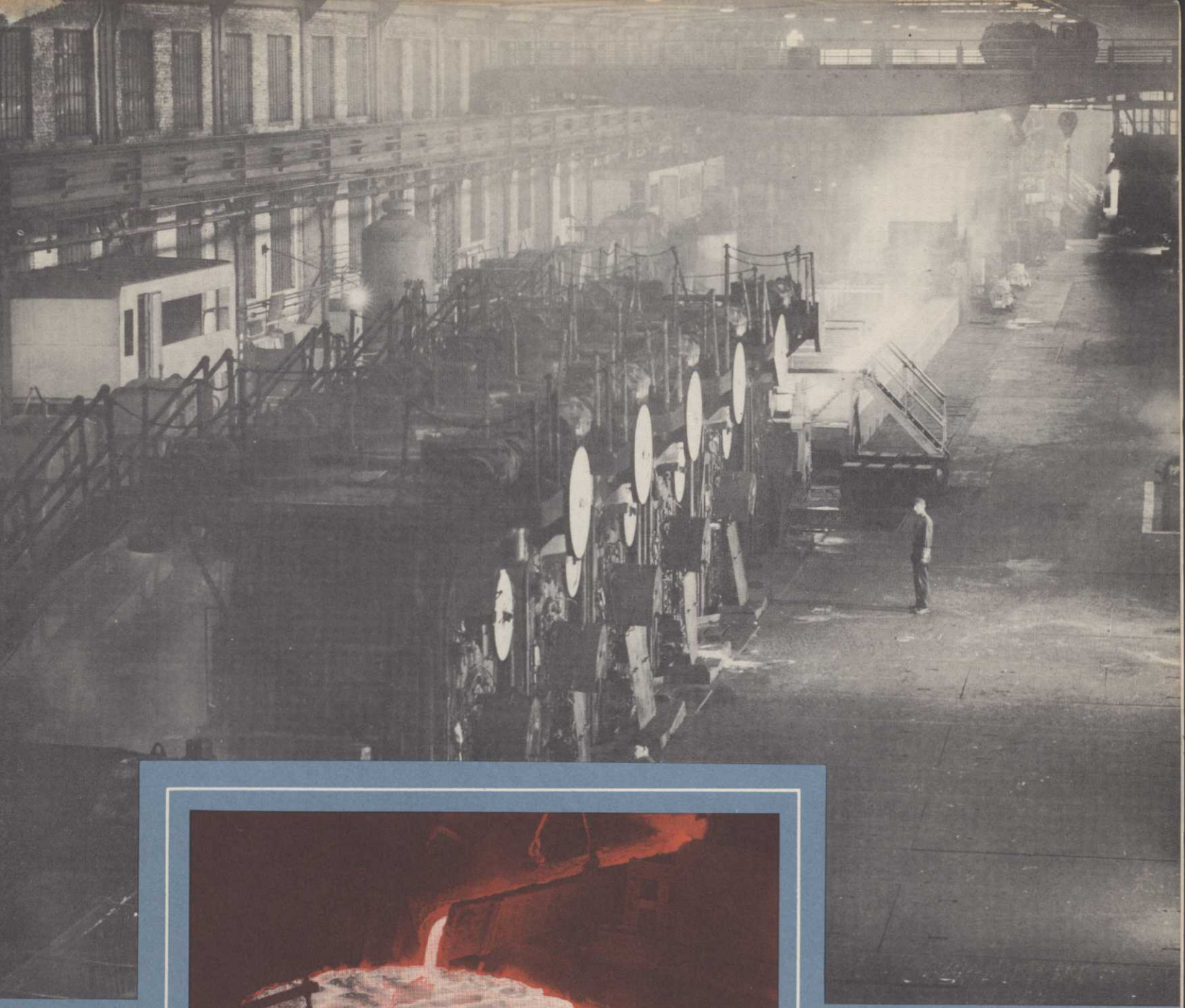
Along this production line are:

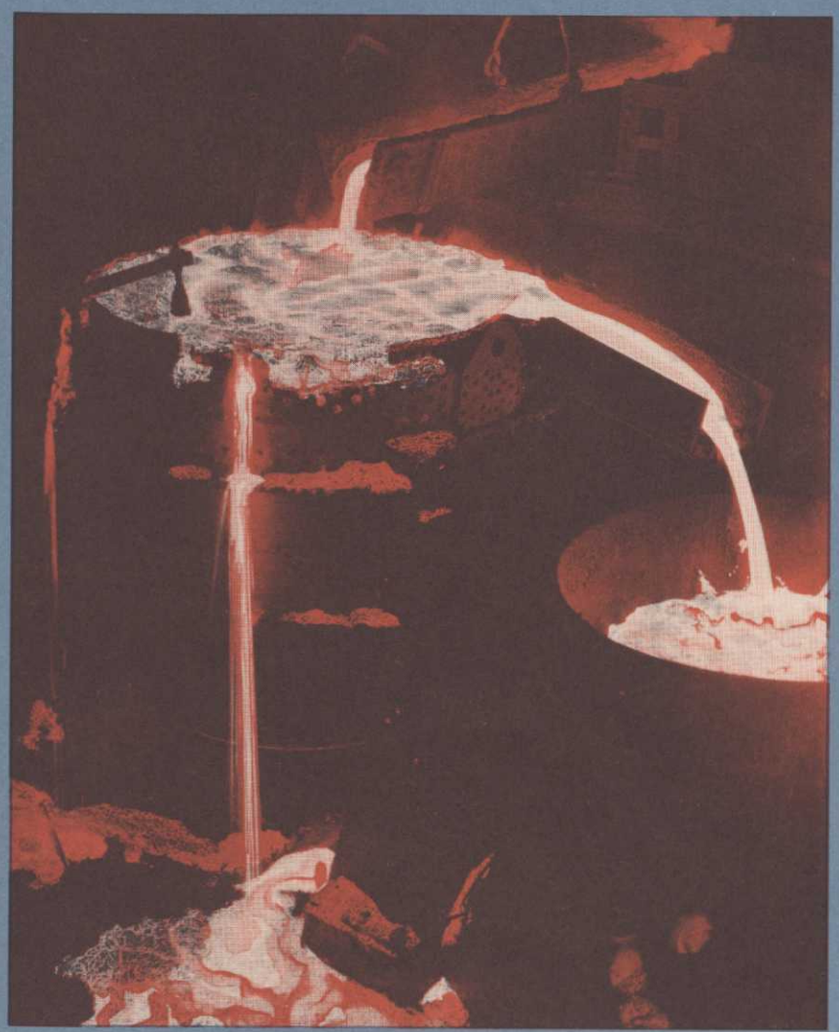
• The Coke and Coal Chemical Division where 21,000 tons of coal are daily turned into blast furnace coke in 16 batteries of 1,162 ovens.

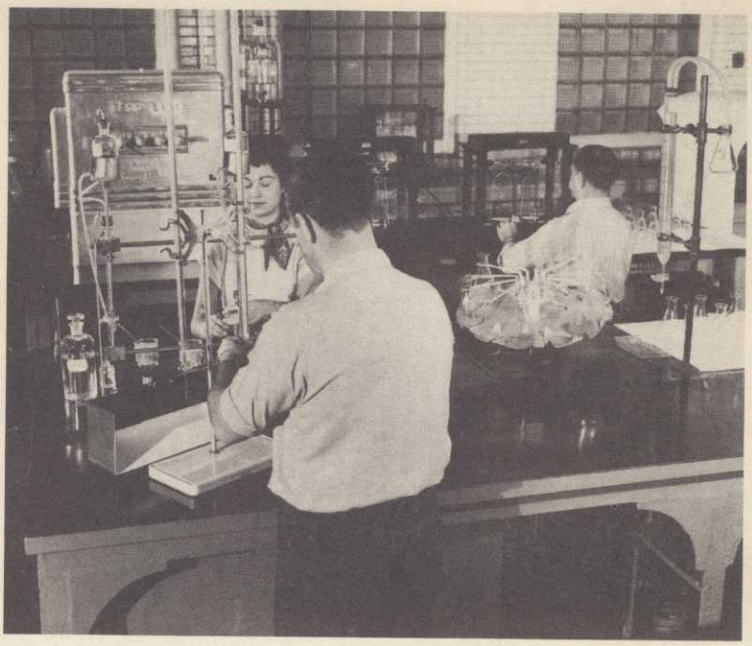
A modern coal chemicals plant transforms volatile material driven off the coal into chemicals with long complicated names from which aspirin, mothballs, plastics, nylon, explosives and hundreds of other familiar materials are derived.

• A mile-long slip and ore yards capable of handling 11 million tons of ore and limestone each year.

• Twelve blast furnaces lined up in a row — each of which can produce from 800 to 1,550 tons of iron daily.







• Power and fuel facilities capable of generating enough electric power for a city with 300,000 population.

• Pumping stations which handle 550 million gallons of water per day — enough water to fill a lake 100 feet deep and 1½ city blocks square.

• Five open hearth shops containing 50 stationary furnaces and three tilting-type furnaces. Each furnace can produce a "heat" of from 150 to 330 tons of steel.

• Three 25-ton Bessemer converters which light up the northern skies of Gary at night.

• A rail mill — which in less than 7 minutes transforms an orange-hot ingot into finished railroad rails.

• Two blooming mills, a slabbing mill, a plate mill and a billet mill producing the basic shapes of steel — billets, blooms and slabs.

• A merchant mill division containing nine bar mills and two strip mills producing rounds, precision rounds, bar sections, flats, structural sections, sheets and plates.

• A wheel mill where a thousand railroad car wheels for locomotives, passenger cars and freight cars can be forged daily.

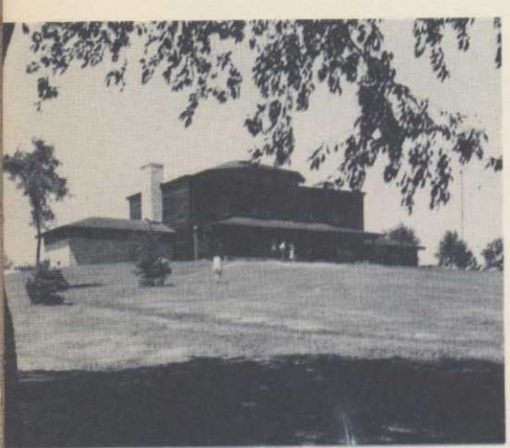
• An axle mill which can turn out six hundred railroad car axles a day.

• Chemical and metallurgical laboratories where every piece of steel manufactured is analyzed, controlled and identified by the latest and most modern scientific equipment and know-how.

• Gary Steel Works has a rated annual ingot capacity of 7,204,000 tons of steel.

Gary Steel Works in itself is a community of steel. It has its own fire and police departments, restaurants, telephone and postal systems, health dispensary, recreation, training and education departments.

The World's Best....



Gary Steel Works strives through specialized training programs to develop their production workers into the best steelmakers in the world.

In addition, there are special management institutes where the young men and the veteran managers are instilled, not only with their responsibility to their jobs and plant, but also to the communities in which they live.

The Carillco Band and the United States Steel Chorus of Gary Steel Works are two of the most outstanding employee musical groups in the nation. The band and chorus have appeared in joint concerts at veterans hospitals, music festivals and local events since 1938. The annual spring concert held in Gary is the musical highlight of the season.

The 13,000-member Good Fellow Club of Gary Steel Works has an active recreational program of golfing, baseball, bowling and flying. The club sponsors a Good Fellow Youth Camp where over 700 children of employees spend a week camping, hiking and swimming under the supervision of a trained 25-man staff.

The Good Fellow Club Carollers, an 18-voice group of steelmen, bring thousands closer to the spirit of Christmas with their traditional Yuletide songs. Dressed in colorful 19th-century costumes, this group travels more than 500 miles by bus to make more than 100 different stops at schools, hospitals, public institutions and the various United States Steel facilities.

These active members of the Gary Steel Works team have often been referred to as "Men of Steel with Hearts of Gold." It was never more true than on this, the Golden Anniversary of Gary Steel Works.

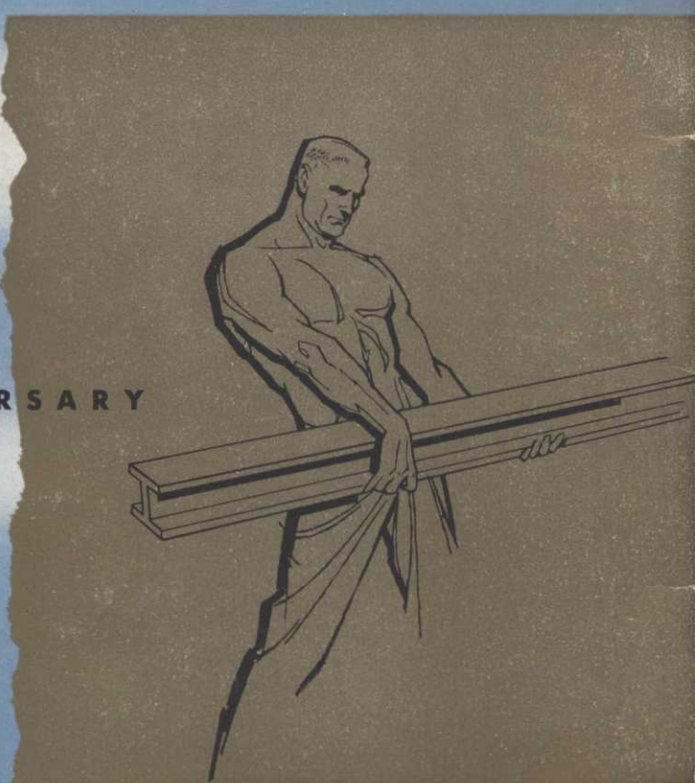
This Country

should look upon the golden anniversary of Gary as something more than a milestone of local growth and progress. The people of the United States should regard Gary's Golden Jubilee as an occasion to reflect on the magnificent contribution this city has made to our national growth and progress.

"The unmatchable production of steel in this one city during the last half-century has done more than contribute to the material advancement of the American people, who now enjoy the highest standard of living in all history. Gary's steel production has also been a vital factor in the protection of American spiritual and political freedom, when that freedom was twice imperiled by World Wars. . . This great city of steel production deserves a national salute for its role in increasing the safety and comfort of living in America, and for its part in safeguarding our constitutional liberty."

From an address by Roger Blough, Chairman of the Board, United States Steel Corporation, on March 12, 1956, at Gary's civic celebration of Founder's Day.

GARY STEEL WORKS 50th ANNIVERSARY



USS